

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 - 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing signaling and processing requirements in a mobile communication network having a plurality of defined neighboring telecommunication servers, said method comprising the steps of:

automatically distributing capability and configuration information between the servers whenever one of the servers is started up, said distributing step including:

starting-up one of the servers;

automatically sending the capability and configuration information for the start-up server, from the start-up server to defined neighboring servers ~~neighboring the start-up server~~;

receiving and storing the start-up server's capability and configuration information in each of the defined neighboring servers; and

upon receiving the start-up server's capability and configuration information, sending capability and configuration information for each of the defined neighboring servers from the defined neighboring servers to the start-up server; and

automatically distributing capability and configuration information from a first server to defined neighboring servers ~~neighboring the first server~~ when a service is initiated in the first server, said distributing step including:

initiating the service in the first server; and

determining by the first server, whether a given defined neighboring server supports the service, based upon the capability and configuration information for the given neighboring server that the first server has received from the given defined neighboring server;

upon determining that the given neighboring server does not support the service, ~~discarding the information sending from the first server to the given neighboring server, only information that is supported by the given neighboring server;~~ and

upon determining that the given defined neighboring server supports the service, sending from the first server to the given defined neighboring server, information relating to the initiated service.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the telecommunication servers are Mobile Switching Centers (MSCs).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the telecommunication servers are Mobile Switching Centers (MSCs), and the capability and configuration information sent by a given MSC includes an indication of a version of an industry standard with which the given MSC is compliant.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the telecommunication servers are Mobile Switching Centers (MSCs), and the capability and configuration information sent by a given MSC includes an indication of a version of an industry standard with which the given MSC is compliant, together with exceptions for any capabilities of the version of the standard that are not supported by the given MSC.

19. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication server that automatically distributes capability and configuration information for the server to defined neighboring telecommunication servers in a mobile communication network, said telecommunication server comprising:

a communication signaling mechanism that automatically sends the server's capability and configuration information to at least one defined neighboring server upon start-up of the server, and receives in return, capability and configuration information for the at least one defined neighboring server;

means for storing the capability and configuration information for the at least one defined neighboring server;

means for initiating a service;

means for determining from the stored capability and configuration information for the at least one defined neighboring server, ~~which information related to whether~~ the initiated service is supported by the at least one defined neighboring server; and

means for sending to the at least one defined neighboring server, only the service-related information that is supported by the at least one defined neighboring server.

20. (Currently Amended) The telecommunication server of claim 19, wherein the server is a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), and the communication signaling mechanism sends the MSC's capability and configuration information to at least one defined neighboring MSC upon start-up of the MSC.

21. (Currently Amended) The telecommunication server of claim 20, wherein the communication signaling mechanism also automatically sends the MSC's capability and configuration information to the at least one defined neighboring MSC whenever the capability and configuration information of the MSC is changed.